

2005 Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005)

Asotin County Conservation District



Most Significant Natural Resource Accomplishment

The District enrolled 49 acres in a 15-year riparian lease on Couse Creek, a tributary to the Snake River and home to resident rainbow and steelhead trout.

Utilizing funding from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Department of Ecology (DOE) and landowner inkind, 12,000 feet of riparian fence on a mile section of stream was installed, a well was drilled and two alternative water facilities were developed. 6,200 native trees and shrubs were planted and the 49 acres were treated for noxious weeds.

This project has resulted in the lower 6.25 contiguous miles of Couse Creek being protected. In addition to this lease, 181.4 acres are enrolled in the CREP program, which protects 5.25 miles of spawning and rearing stream habitat.



Mission of the Asotin County Conservation District

- *"To advocate, educate and assist people in responsible land management and agricultural practices that conserve and improve air, soil and water quality and fish and wildlife habitat for present and future generations."*

Natural Resource Improvements in 2005 - Summary

- *Projects approved by the District board are implemented utilizing several funding sources to reduce the direct impact to salmonid bearing streams within Asotin County.*
- *Project developments within Asotin County have informed and educated local individuals on the importance of healthy upland, riparian and instream areas and how they impact anadromous salmonid production.*

Water Quality Implementation

Accomplishments

- *120 acres of 2 year direct seed, 171.6 acres of pasture/hayland planting, 9,100 feet of terrace, 1 sediment basin, 252 feet of cross fence, 1,440 feet of windbreak.*
- *9 IWM plans were completed through drought response funding*
- *Technical assistance was provided for BMPs implemented and participation in the EQIP Local Work Group process.*

Basic Funding

- *Provide travel reimbursement for supervisors that attend board meetings. Pay for costs associate with District Election. Dues for NACD, WACD, SE Area Association, Washington Cattleman's Association, Blue Mountain RC&D and Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association, Officer's & Director's Insurance and District liability Insurance. Gift for WACD Auction. Gift for WADE Auction. Provide District calendars to cooperators in the district. Office supplies not covered by other grant sources.*

Professional Engineering

- *Due to increase workload, NRCS technicians have not been able to assist the District with projects as they have in the past. The District has relied on the SE Area Engineer to provide engineering services for projects.*

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- A total of 2 new contracts were approved enhancing 70.4 acres of riparian area and protecting 3.14 miles of stream.
 - 20,700 trees and shrubs were planted, 2 acres of grass planted, 57,765 feet of riparian fence, 4 spring developments, 2 wells, 7 troughs and 2,311 feet of pipeline.
 - Technical assistance was provided for contract planning and BMPs implemented.
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Irrigation Efficiencies

- As a result of efficiency assessments, 1 flow meter were installed through the DOE meter contract.
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Livestock

- Attended livestock training in Leavenworth. Begin working with landowner self-assessment tool and development of landowner survey.
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Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

Accomplishments through BPA, Salmon Recovery Funding and DOE Grants

- 3891 acres enrolled in the long-term direct seed program
 - 49 acres enrolled in a long-term riparian restoration lease
 - 46.1 acres of pasture/hayland planting, 1 sediment basin, 18 spring developments, 1 alternative water development, 16,245 feet of riparian fence, 363 feet of corral fence, 200 feet of cross fence, 3 troughs, 1 spring box, 425 feet of pipeline, 2 frost free hydrants, 1 well, 7,200 trees planted and 3 feedlot improvements. Technical assistance was provided for BMPs implemented.
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Information & Education

Accomplishments

- One District newsletter was produced to inform growers of available programs, upcoming events and District activities. Annual meeting was held on February 3rd. Approximately 50 people attended. Provided support to four classrooms with fish-rearing aquariums and released approximately 800 fish. Gave 5 Salmon Life Cycle Presentations to 7th grade classes at Lincoln Middle School and 5th grade class at Asotin Elementary School. Hosted Asotin County Envirothon and sponsored 2 teams at the 2005 State Envirothon from Asotin and Clarkston High Schools. Gave District Presentation to Walla Walla Community College geology class. Gave Water Quality Presentation at WSU Extension Youth Camp to Wonders of Nature class.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices.



2005 Asotin County Envirothon



Windbreak to reduce soil erosion



Trough for off-stream water facility